

OFFICIAL

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JANUARY 10, 2008

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:30 PM, by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Costa.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the agenda, moving Item XVII. Executive Session to follow Item V. Student Recognition.

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported receiving a letter from Ms. Mundy regarding the Space Utilization Task Force. He asked the Superintendent to acknowledge receipt of the letter and turn it over to Mr. Gibbons, Chairman of the Task Force. He also turned over a letter from Chief Susi, which the Superintendent said she would address under the Superintendent Report.

IV. Student Recognition - The Superintendent explained the committee had requested adding this to the agenda, but the two students were unable to attend. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling until the next meeting. The Superintendent asked for clarification if they meant the special meeting on January 24th, or the next regular meeting, February 14th. It should be added to the special meeting.

V. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1) CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1) CTA/ICSE

2) Central Administrators' Contracts

3) Non-contractual Salaries

4) Potential Litigation

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Mr. Wagner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE, with Ms. MacBeth voting against. Open Session recessed at 8:00 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 8:33 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes, with Mr. Costa and Mr. Wagner off the dias. Ms. Beaulieu requested adding to the next agenda items voted on in the 10/26/06 School Committee meeting.

VI. Comments from the Public (Agenda Items Only) - Brian Kelly asked about the decision to change the agenda limiting discussion to agenda items only and requested changing it. Mr. Costa explained the rationale was to keep the meeting moving. Mr. Wood noted he agreed the “agenda items only” should be removed.

VII. Student Government Report - Amy introduced herself as a senior and is their Historian. Sara introduced herself as the Sophomore Class President. They reported on past events including Adopt A Family and a clothing drive. Future events are the Winter Ball at Wrights’s Farm, Mid-terms January 29-31 and a blood drive.

VIII. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment of bills in the amount of \$666,884.54.

B. Award of Bid for Dental Services - Mr. Wagner reported the finance committee was recommending the bid for \$1/per child by Dr. Ward. Ms. MacBeth expressed her disappointment with this and thought that community members should have been shown more respect. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the recommendation.

IX. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the consent agenda.

A. Police Report

B. Truancy Report

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session: 12/13/07

D. Facilities Report

E. Enrollment Report

X. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Meeting/Executive Session: 11/29/07

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B. Executive Session: 12/13/07

On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling the minutes.

XI. Personnel Recommendations

A. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the retirement of Regina Fanning, Special Educator at Cumberland High School, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

B. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the retirement of Margarida Amaral, Kindergarten Teacher at B.F. Norton School, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

C. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Kelly Dwyer, Grade 4 Teacher at Community School, effective 4/7/2008 with a return date of 6/2/2008. (Budgeted)

D. On a motion by Mr. Wagner and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Catastrophic Leave of Virginia Laflamme-Zurowski, Special Educator at Cumberland High School, effective 11/14/2007 with a return date of 2/5/2008. Mr. Rotella read from Article 18 regarding when sick leaves are exhausted and catastrophic time is taken, not to exceed 55 days with pay back at five

days per school year.

XII. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported work is continuing in the Transitional Building and in the pool wing. The technology rollout is starting tomorrow. The 3.5 administration area work at Ashton is nearing completion; the floor is going in. The water line at Cumberland Hill has been re-rerouted and the steel will be put in place.

B. Head Lice Policy Revision - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to remove the Head Lice Policy Revision and the Medication Policy Revision from the table. Mrs. Kelaghan explained this revision is from the Department of Health. Ms. MacBeth read the policy revision. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ACCEPT the policy revision. Mr. Rotella noted with a revision only one vote is necessary.

C. Medication Policy Revision - Mr. Costa read the change in #12. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ACCEPT the revision.

D. Wellness Policy Revision - Mr. Costa reported this is still tabled.

E. 2008-2009 Budget Planning Process - The Superintendent reported they are in the budget process and there will be presentations tomorrow.

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The initial review is scheduled for February 4th. There was a joint meeting of the School Committee and Town Council last night to discuss the status of the current budget, areas of concern such as medical line items and health care claims and budget forecasting. One concern is the local tax cap; the Town Council is concerned with having enough revenue to fund the school department. The Town Council finance committee will be meeting with Mr. Wagner's finance committee and the Superintendent's team. Mr. Thibodeau noted the bond indebtedness and that 1.2 million dollars interest on the bond is due and will be cut from the budget. He felt it should come from capital improvements, not the school department's budget.

XIII. New Business

A. Presentation on Schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (SWPBIS) by B.F. Norton School, JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary and Joseph L. McCourt Middle School - The Superintendent introduced Ms. Maloney, Ms. Reinalda, Ms. Rossi, Ms. Prendergast and Ms. Plante who made a presentation on the positive reinforcement in their schools. They reported they recognize students, have data collection and analysis and assess community services. Ms. Maloney noted the marked improvement in referrals to the principal's office. Ms. MacBeth noted that PBIS takes district support. Ms. Beaulieu asked if this program could be implemented at the high school. The Superintendent explained they could look at

something for the high school, but the plan was to roll out at the elementary level, noting that North Cumberland Middle School was not able to start this year with their SALT visit.

B. Adoption of School Committee Goals and Vision Statement - Ms. Beaulieu reported the Curriculum Subcommittee reported that in November and December the subcommittee continued with its self-study through Key Works and had a vision and three goals they wanted to convey. Ms. Beaulieu read the vision:

The Cumberland School Committee is dedicated to providing a dynamic organization to facilitate the evolution of an exemplary learning community; preparing students for life and

career. They identify and respond to emerging trends in the Town of Cumberland. Members pursue and promote community engagement and dialogue around education. They actively participate to ensure a level of rigor that exceeds state standards and allows students to

achieve beyond the standards. The committee creates a safe and healthy environment that

supports learning within our facilities. They will maintain an environment that nurtures

positive attitude and encourages accountability among all within the Cumberland Public Schools.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the vision statement as presented.

Ms. Beaulieu read the goals:

- 1. Communication - The School Committee will work to broaden the communication efforts between the administration, staff, students, parents and community through the implementation of the District Communication Plan.**

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- 2. Policies - The School Committee will update policies in order to support the Strategic Plan.**
- 3. Students Achievement - The School Committee will advocate for student achievement as a top community priority.**

On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adopting the goals as presented.

XIV. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent reported receiving a letter from Cumberland Hill Fire Chief Susi and also from Chief Desmaris following the small fire at the high school. It is believed the fire started due to smoking and she has been given assurance the parties at the high school will lead a discussion to address the issue. Chief Susi and the police have offered their support and to review actions of the staff for emergency procedures.

Dr. Morelle reported on the receipt of the Feinstein Leadership Grants. Mr. Pires has announced the Spelling Bee will be held at McCourt Middle School Wednesday, February 6th for grades 4-8. She also reported the dedication plaque has been created. The re-dedication will be a public event in June. The planning committee will meet January 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's conference room. The Superintendent thanked Marcia Green from the Valley Breeze regarding coverage of the Dunn Institute and the teacher training proposal at the Hasbro Teaching Institute. She also thanked Ms. Beaulieu for her request to report out on her contract extension. Dr. Morelle congratulated Lisa Beaudoin on the appointment to Director of Special Education at the last meeting.

XV. Comments from the Public - Mr. McLaughlin commented they have to have some creative ideas for the budget and draw on the private sector for endowments and maybe get tax incentives from the Town Council.

XVI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported the fifth grade at Cumberland Hill received a Feinstein grant to put books on recordings. He suggested have the 5th grade students come to the next meeting to be recognized. Ms. Beaulieu thanked the middle and elementary schools for their presentation and thanked the committee for adopting the mission statement and goals.

She urged the public to attend the curriculum subcommittee meetings. In response to the budget meeting, Ms. MacBeth

expressed concern for out of district placements and tuitions and the 2.4 million dollar line item. Mr. Wagner echoed Ms. MacBeth's concerns. He suggested putting that on the agenda. He stated they were expecting a 2.2 million shortfall, only to find it is 3.5 million. Mr. Thibodeau reported he and Mr. Costa had met with the Mayor about the regional school plan and the Office of Children and Learning. He suggested a finance summit with all elected officials to discuss the problems with the state and to collaborate on how to save money. Mr. Costa reported the Mayor noted they used to get 38% at a time and now it is 24% and estimates it is a six million dollar loss to the town. He also commented on changes to the agenda and the intent is to feature schools and showcase the students. Mr. Crowley thanked everyone for their calls and cards.

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XVII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Statement

Approved by the School Committee 2-14-08